

Del Mar's Jockeys Take to Dunk Tank for Hurricane Relief on Labor Day Weekend

Del Mar's jockeys, seeking to aid victims of the Hurricane Katrina disaster in the Gulf States, have volunteered to be dunk tank targets of opportunity this Labor Day weekend to raise funds toward relief.

The dunk tank will be set up in Del Mar's Plaza de Mexico inside the Stretch Run gate on Saturday, Sunday and Monday afternoon starting at 1 p.m. each day. For \$10 fans will get two chances to put the riders in the drink. Del Mar Thoroughbred Club has agreed to match whatever funds are raised during the three days as part of California racing's **Racing with Heart** program.

The dunk tank idea was first raised by veteran jockey Luis Jauregui and quickly embraced by his fellow riders. Among Del Mar's riders is Hall of Famer Kent Desormeaux, a Cajun from Maurice, Louisiana, who had family and friends affected by the hurricane.

Virtually the entire Del Mar jockey colony has agreed to be part of the fund raiser. Such stars as Desormeaux, Alex Solis, Mike Smith, Corey Nakatani, Victor Espinoza, Garrett Gomez, Patrick Valenzuela, David Flores, Martin Pedroza, Jose Valdivia, Jr., Jon Court and Rene Douglas have signed on for the dunk-a-thon.

Jockey Photo Days

Del Mar's riders will be taking part in their annual Jockey Photo Days this Saturday and Sunday from noon to 1 p.m. in the Plaza de Mexico. The dunk tank fund raiser will follow that event on those two afternoons. There is no charge for the photo opportunities

Jockeys scheduled to appear on the two days include:

Saturday:

Garrett Gomez
Corey Nakatani
Mike Smith
Tyler Baze
Luis Jauregui
Paul Atkinson
Kerwin John
Jose Valdivia, Jr.

Sunday:

Alex Solis
Patrick Valenzuela
Jon Court
Kent Desormeaux
David Cohen
Octavio Vergara
Martin Pedroza
Matt Garcia

If you can't make it to the track, but would like to make a donation, you can send a check to NTRA Charities, c/o Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, P.O. Box 700, Del Mar, CA 92014.

For all the latest racing information as well as details about these events and others planned at Del Mar, be sure to visit <http://www.delmarracing.com>.



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